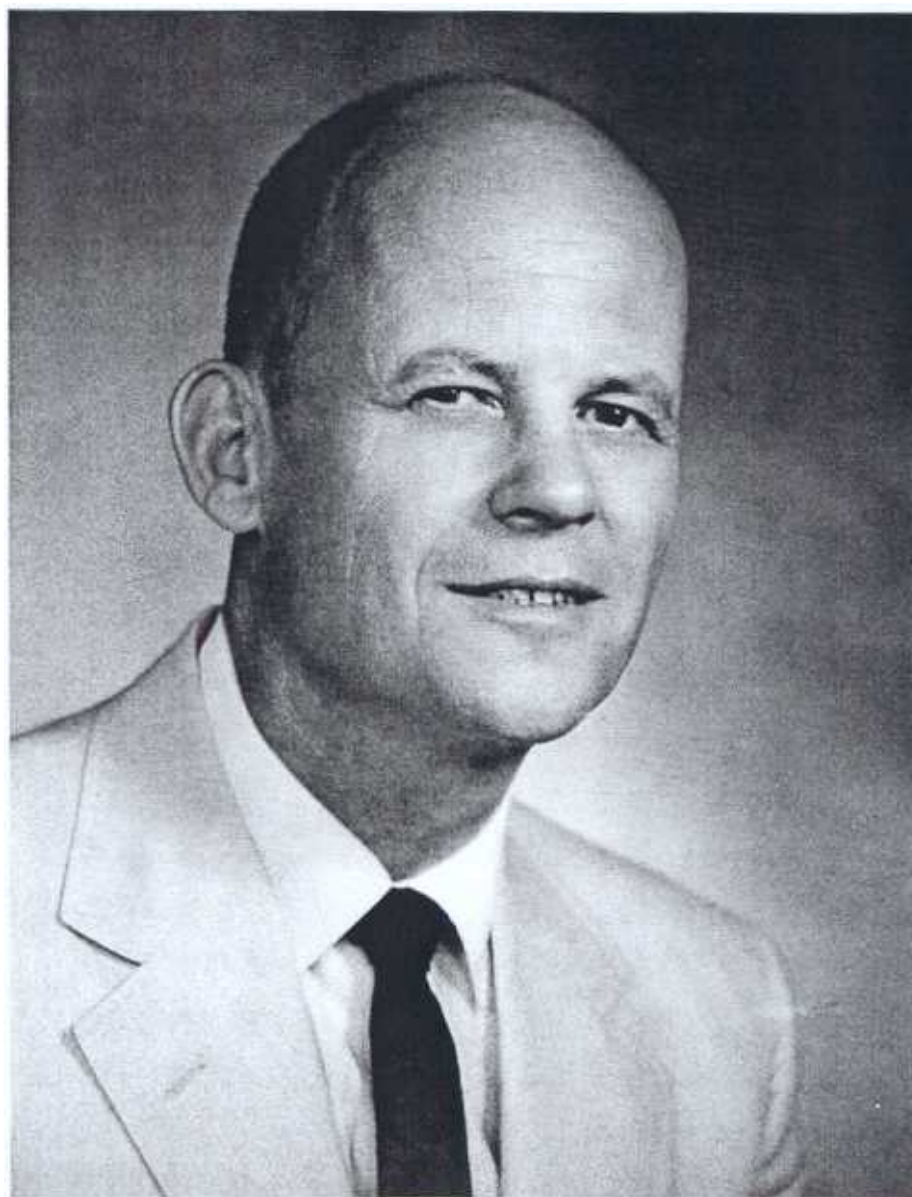


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# FOREST PRODUCTS JOURNAL

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Koch, 26th President of the Forest Products Research Society

- The new environment in particleboard plants
- Stable and leach resistant fire retardants for wood
- Recent developments in circular rip sawing

## Meet Your New President

**U**TILIZATION IS A KEY WORD in Peter Koch's vocabulary—it's the first word in his soon-to-be-published book, *Utilization of the Southern Pines*; it's the motivation behind his striving to get the FPRS' information retrieval project in working order; and it's the way he enjoys his free time activities (to the fullest). After the 26th Annual Meeting in Dallas this month, where he will become the Society's new President, Dr. Koch will begin to bring to bear his great capabilities toward utilizing all available talent, time, and energy for the Society.

Koch began his professional career, after graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering, as Assistant to the President of Stetson-Ross Machine Company in Seattle where he worked in the design and manufacture of heavy-duty planers and matchers. Upon obtaining a Ph.D. in forestry, he spent time as a consulting engineer and as an associate professor in research at Michigan State University, after which he became Vice President of the Lumber Division of The Champlin Company, Rochester, N.H. Champlin's current President, W. H. Champlin, Jr., writes, "Dr. Koch obviously gained much from his industrial experience in New Hampshire, for his efforts in the late 1950s to process profitably small pine logs led

to his conception and demonstration, in 1963, of three configurations of chipping headrigs. As you are aware, these concepts have had worldwide acceptance and have everywhere greatly altered conversion processes from small logs." It was on Champlin's Timber Island in Lake Winnepesaukee that Koch chose to write his first book, *Wood Machining Processes*, which has become a standard reference.

As Head of the Timber Utilization Project, Southern Forest Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service, since 1963, Koch has consistently produced personal research that has profoundly influenced the southern pine industry. His aforementioned book on the southern pines, notes a colleague, "...will be an essential reference for all who are concerned with the utilization of southern pine, whether as practitioners, researchers, teachers, or students."

Besides numerous committee chairmanships and constant cerebral machinations connected with improving FPRS, Koch has served as Chairman of the Mid-South Section and was Regional Board Member of the South Central Region when he was nominated to the Society's Vice President post at the 1970 Miami Beach Annual Meeting. His dedication to the improvement and advancement of FPRS has never waned, as witnessed by

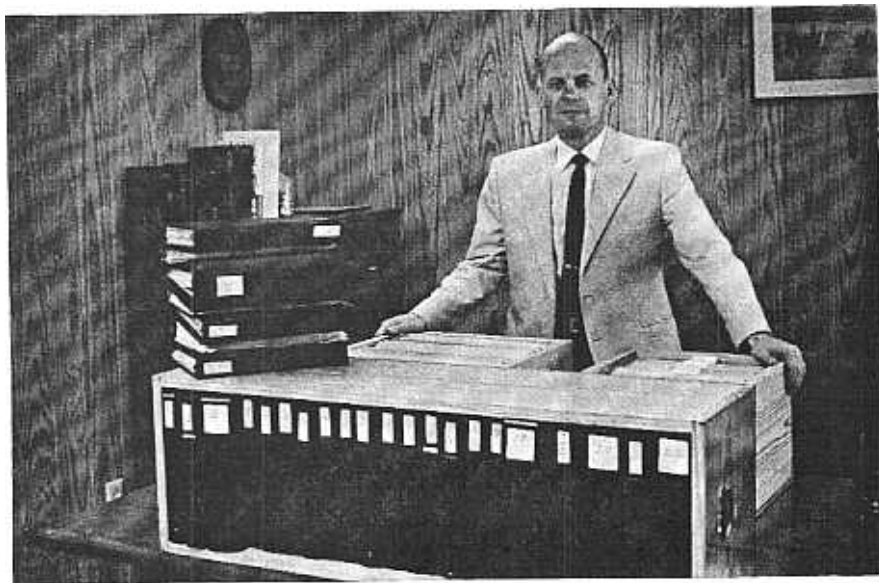
two recent big steps forward by the Society in which he has been most instrumental—the reorganization and redirection of the Society's Division structure, and the birth of AIDS, our new abstract information digest service. These two tasks are a real tribute to Koch because they bring the Society closer to its goal as a worthwhile complement and contemporary to the burgeoning advancements of technology, industry, and education. It's with a chuckle that we note the English translation of his German surname—speculation on what he's going to "cook" up next is a delightfully challenging diversion!

It's surprising to note that such a prolific scientist and researcher plays as hard as he works. Although it is virtually impossible to list the rivers he has "run" in a canoe or other small craft, frequently accompanied by his wife, Doris, here is a partial diary of their recent African trip: "...we visited the source of the Blue Nile (Tississat Falls just downstream of Lake Tana in Ethiopia) and the source of the White Nile (Murchison Falls on the Victoria Nile downstream from Lake Victoria). We also flew along the Zambezi and spent some time at Victoria Falls on the Zambezi between Rhodesia and Zambia. Of course we traveled along the famous South African rivers—the Vaal, the Orange, and the Fish—and from the air saw Kipling's 'great grey green greasy Limpopo River all ringed around with fever trees'." Of course.

Directly after the Dallas meeting, the Kochs are planning to run 150 miles of the Green River in kayaks—this is the portion of the Green River upstream from its junction with the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Now *that's* togetherness! Besides accompanying him on his travels, Doris remarks, "I also enjoy having the many people from all over the world that come to see Peter at the laboratory home for dinner and a chance to visit and learn about the various countries they are from."

Peter Koch's year as President of FPRS will definitely be a mirror of his career to date, characterized by good ideas, hard work, and projects accomplished. He will present the members of the Society with a meaningful challenge to live up to, so ready, get set, . . .

**Mary Ellen Maki**  
Assistant Editor



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN when the manuscript for Peter Koch's second book, *Utilization of the Southern Pines*, was finished and boxed for delivery to the Government Printing Office. It is interesting to note that the boxes and wall paneling are of southern pine, and that this office is located in Pineville, La. Koch must practice what he preaches!